

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A side-emitting illumination device for uniformly distributing light comprising:

a light source,

a light-transmitting rod which permits substantially total internal reflection, and

a reflective outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod,

wherein ~~the~~ an angular width of the reflective outcoupling material affixed to ~~an~~ the outer surface of the rod controls ~~the~~ an angular distribution of light leaving the side of the rod,

wherein the angular width of the reflective outcoupling material varies along ~~the~~ a length of the rod to provide substantially uniform light distribution.

20. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the light source further comprises a plurality of LEDs.

21. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 20, wherein the plurality of LEDs includes at least a red, a green, and a blue LED which are mixed to generate white light.

22. (Currently Amended) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 21, wherein the plurality of red, green, and blue LEDs are mixed to generate white light chromaticity.

23., (Currently Amended) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 21, wherein the ~~array~~ plurality of red, green, and blue LEDs are mixed to generate dynamic color effects.

24. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the rod is a flexible rod.

25. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the rod is a rigid rod.

26. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the reflective outcoupling material is paint.

27. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 26, wherein the paint is white paint.

28. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 27, wherein the white paint is distributed in such a way as to control the angular distribution of light leaving the rod.

29. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 27, wherein the white paint is distributed in such a way as to ensure uniform light distribution along the length of the rod.

30. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the rod is an elliptical rod in cross-section.

31. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the rod is a square rod in cross-section.

32. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the rod is a combination of straight and curved edges in cross-section.

33. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 32, wherein the combination of straight and curved edges vary in configuration along the length of the rod.

34. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the reflective outcoupling material comprises a combination of white paint and fine dots with varying packing density.

35. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 19, wherein the device further comprises a mirror at an end of the rod away from the light source.

36. (Currently Amended) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 35, wherein the mirror reflects light that travels the an entire length of the rod.

37. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling ~~the~~ an angular distribution of light leaving ~~the~~ a side of a side-emitting illumination device for uniformly distributing light comprising:

providing a light-transmitting rod which permits substantially total internal reflection with a reflective outcoupling material along its side;

controlling~~the~~ a width of the reflective outcoupling material to achieve a desired angular distribution of light leaving the side of the rod, wherein the width of the reflective outcoupling material varies along~~the~~ a length of the rod to provide substantially uniform light distribution; and

illuminating the light-transmitting rod with a light source.

38. (Currently Amended) A side-emitting illumination device for distributing light comprising:

a light source,

a light-transmitting rod which permits substantially total internal reflection, and

a reflective outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod,

wherein the reflective outcoupling material exclusively controls~~the~~ an angular distribution of light leaving~~the~~ a side of the rod,

wherein~~the~~ an angular width of the reflective outcoupling material varies along~~the~~ a length of the rod to provide substantially uniform light distribution.

39. (Currently Amended) A side-emitting illumination device for distributing light comprising:

a light source,

a light-transmitting rod which permits substantially total internal reflection, and

a reflective outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod,

wherein the reflective outcoupling material exclusively controls~~the~~ an angular distribution of light leaving~~the~~ a side of the rod,

wherein~~the~~ an angular width of the reflective outcoupling material varies along~~the~~ a length of the rod, wherein the reflective outcoupling material is distributed in a series of stripes perpendicular to the length of the rod to provide substantially uniform light distribution along the length of the rod.

40. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 39, wherein at least one of a spacing between the stripes or the width of the stripes is varied along the length of the rod.

41. (Currently Amended) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 39, wherein ~~the~~ a width of a spacing between the stripes is varied along the length of the rod.

42. (Previously Presented) The side-emitting illumination device of claim 39, wherein the stripes further comprise fine dots with varying packing density.